SYSTEM AND METHODOLOGY PROVIDING ACCESS TO PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGES AND ATTRIBUTES FOR MULTIPLE DISPARATE CLIENT DEVICES

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A Photographic Server ("PhotoServer") System is described that implements a methodology for providing access to photographic images and attributes for multiple disparate client devices. The PhotoServer includes a Photographic Server (i.e., the core "photo server"), a User Data Manager, a Device Profile Manager, a Photo Translator, a Photo Cache, and a Photo Storage (module). The method for providing access to photographic images and attributes operates as follows. First, the method processes the received input request based on a user identifier (user ID) or a photograph identifier (photo ID) for the photos that are of interest. Next, the method constructs an information record describing the target device's capabilities. Information gathered from this step allows the PhotoServer system to understand exactly what capabilities it can support in the target device. In particular, this information indicates to the system what transformation (if any) is required for translating the original photo into a format suitable for the target device. Now, the method checks the Photo Cache to see if it stores the photo of interest. If the photo (translated for the target device) already exists in the Photo Cache, the method may simply return that to the target device. However, if it is not in the cache, then the method passes the photo ID and the target device parameters on to the Photo Translator, which transforms the photo from its original format into the format that is desired for the target device (based on target device capabilities). Once the Photo Translator has carried out this task, the newly-transformed version of the photo is copied into the Photo Cache (e.g., for possible future use). This translated version of the photo is now returned to the target device, in a streaming fashion.

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